

discover and develop their personal strengths. All of these efforts lead to lasting positive changes in their lives and their entire communities.

The good work done by our local YWCA chapter has inspired many of my constituents to give back to their community through volunteer work and community service. In the El Paso region, over 200 volunteers generously dedicate more than 40,000 hours every year to the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region. One of the many important lessons this group of dedicated individuals has instilled in my community is that creating a stronger, more united community begins with building up our youth and their families.

Today, I am proud to recognize and express my deep gratitude for the 100 years of service and contributions of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region. My Congressional district is fortunate to have an organization such as this one, and I am hopeful that the next 100 years will be as robust and successful as the first.

MS. KYANN McMILLIE—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2004

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, passionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become life-long learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and today I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Kyann McMillie, a teacher at Canutillo Elementary School in the Canutillo Independent School District, for being selected as the 2004 Texas Teacher of the Year. The Texas Teacher of the Year is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Ms. Kyann McMillie represents the best of the best in the teaching profession, and we salute her energy, efforts, and dedication.

Ms. McMillie received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Western New Mexico University and a Masters degree in education from The University of Texas at El Paso. Ms. Kyann McMillie's lifelong aspiration was to be an attorney or an accountant but she decided to pursue a career in teaching. She earned her teaching credentials and taught first and second grade at Canutillo Elementary School. Ms. McMillie says that, "patience and nurturing are key when dealing with children." She firmly believes that to understand another person, "we must understand the situation from which they come."

Ms. Kyann McMillie is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

MS. DANA K. BOYD—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2007

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, the community of El Paso, Texas is extremely grateful for its teachers. The El Paso area has been recognized year after year for the great work our teachers do in the classroom. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for their contributions. Today, I want to acknowledge Ms. Dana K. Boyd, a teacher at Dolphin Terrace Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 2007 Texas Teacher of the Year. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes outstanding teachers who have demonstrated the kind of vision and excellence in teaching that is moving our education system forward. The Texas Teacher of the Year designation is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher.

Ms. Boyd has taught first, second, and third grade at Dolphin Terrace Elementary since 1999. She seeks to create a relaxing, non-threatening environment in her classroom and has been noted to say: "my students know they are the brightest kids in the grade level [because] once they believe they are the smartest students in their hearts and minds . . . [I] am able [to set and] keep those high standards." She works hard to establish a sense of family in her classroom. Before school starts each year, Ms. Boyd calls each student and their family. On the first day of school, Ms. Boyd tells her students that "the people they are sitting next to are like a second family." Every three months, her class has a potluck luncheon and students and parents get to know each other better while sharing a meal. With this caring approach, she has helped her students deal with difficult situations, and she firmly believes that every teacher should treat each student as they would treat their own child.

Ms. Dana K. Boyd is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

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CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANUTILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Canutillo Independent School Dis-

trict located in the Sixteenth Congressional District of Texas. This school district is celebrating its 50th anniversary on April 18, 2009. I was born and raised in Canutillo, and I have proudly represented the people of Canutillo for the past twelve years in Congress.

In 1959, the community of Canutillo worked diligently to establish a school district because too many students were forced to leave school after the eighth grade. Fifty years ago, the closest high school was 21 miles away, and many families could not afford to send their children to a distant school because no school buses were provided for high school students in Canutillo, and the community worked together to find a solution. The history of the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) is a strong testament to us, the people of Canutillo, and our dedication and commitment to educational opportunities for students.

Our first superintendent, Joseph MacDougall, was committed to these values and laid a strong foundation for the school district. Mr. MacDougall initiated much needed social services, including youth sports programs, health services for the elderly, and the Head Start initiative for pre-school children. In 1963, Canutillo ISD graduated its first senior class, and by 1964, student enrollment reached 1,013 students.

The district faced and overcame significant challenges during the early years. At one point 36 community residents borrowed \$1,000 each from the Coronado State Bank and loaned those funds to the district so that it could make payroll for faculty and staff. In 1965 there was a hepatitis outbreak that forced Canutillo ISD to shut down its water wells until the source of the disease was identified and nearly every student in the district was inoculated as a precaution. This led El Paso to extend water services to portions of Canutillo. In 1966 there was an attempt by the Anthony School District to annex about five acres of Canutillo ISD land. The issue was settled when State Education Commissioner J.W. Edgar ruled in favor of Canutillo. This case is the basis for landmark state legislation which prohibits one school district from annexing the property of another without an agreement between both school boards. Overcoming these challenges was difficult, but the community and the school district are stronger because of them.

And that community support has never wavered as demonstrated by the 1999 ballot initiative in which 96 percent of voters passed a referendum to build a new high school. In April 2003, Canutillo ISD voters again gave their vote of confidence and passed another bond issue for district-wide maintenance and renovation projects. The new Canutillo High School opened in January 2006 with nearly 1,300 students; the population has now grown to 1,600.

The community of Canutillo knew 50 years ago that investing in our children's education would pay dividends in the future, particularly for underprivileged students. Today, we can see the results of those efforts. Our graduates proudly serve in occupations ranging from military and law enforcement officers, to doctors, nurses, judges, professors and school principals.

As a member of the second graduating class of Canutillo High School, it is my honor to congratulate the school board, faculty, and

staff of the Canutillo Independent School District and to thank the community of Canutillo for their commitment to our students.

MR. PAUL F. CAIN—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2008

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas is fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the country. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the work of our educators in the El Paso area, and today I want to recognize Mr. Paul F. Cain, a teacher at Ysleta High School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as

the 2008 Texas Teacher of the Year. This is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher and it is a program run by the Texas Education Agency. The program recognizes and rewards outstanding teachers like Mr. Paul F. Cain for their energy, commitment, and passion for our kids.

When Paul Cain graduated from high school, he had two possible career paths to pursue, the military or teaching. He initially chose the military but the Army ultimately recognized his potential and put him in a military classroom as a mathematics instructor. After more than a decade of military service, he moved to Ysleta High School to teach math. That first year, he was given a schedule, a textbook and a classroom and virtually no guidance. During his 18 years as Chair of the Mathematics Department at Ysleta High School, Mr. Cain made sure that every new teacher was mentored and supported by other

veteran teachers. Mr. Cain has been quoted to say that he believes teachers are the “most positive individuals in the world.” He believes firmly that teachers have the responsibility to make students aware of their strengths to “motivate [them] to participate in the learning process.”

Mr. Paul F. Cain is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date, El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honor program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.